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concerned that we're not making the best use of our dollars in a lot of cases. And I don't...I don't know why, and I...I need to...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...spend more time trying to understand this...this issue. But the amendment is very appropriate to discuss the issue, and from what I know much of what Senator Dwite Pedersen has told us I think is supported by facts, and I am very concerned. We need to make greater use in nonviolent cases of work release, get people off of the public support coffers, make room in the penitentiary for those who need to be there and for the protection of the public need to be there, and I am not sure that we've reached the point where we are sorting those out as carefully as we should. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Senator Wehrbein, one simple question, please.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: When you said that we've dodged lawsuits, can you tell me which lawsuits or what you're talking about?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, we had the threat of a lawsuit a few years ago when we started putting this together. It never happened but we knew that we were in a overpopulated condition and were concerned that we would have to do something or the federal government would step in. That's...that was what I was expressing.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. People, what Senator Wehrbein is talking about was a statement that a judge made. I don't have that information with me on the floor but it was a statement that a judge made from the bench and it was never threatened to actually go to a lawsuit. That was,